

Sierra Front Northwest Great Basin

Resource Advisory Council meeting

May 15, 2015

Austin, NV

Introduction - Deborah Lassiter, RAC Chairperson.

Members present: Willie Molini, Doug Hogan, Greg Hendricks, David Von Seggern, Verl Ray Hendrix, Pat Irwin, Tim Dufferena, Ron Cerri, Mark Freese, Matt Gingerich and Deborah Lassiter.

BLM representatives present: Ralph Thomas (CCD DM), Vic Lozano (WD ADM), Lisa Ross (CCD PAO), and Terah Malsam (WD PAO).

Minutes – comments

- Motion passed, minutes approved

Reports from Sub groups:

NCA Sub Group

- Watch your email from BR subgroup
- Background on Black Rock subgroup
- No report from the group to this group for today's meeting.

Ron: is there a need for the group to look at the permit in regards to the population cap increase for BMAN?

Vic: We can brief the sub group at the next meeting about the 2015 SRP.

Ron: Does the group have any concern about the change of medical provider for BMAN?

Pat: Pershing County does.

Grazing Sub Group– Mark F.

- We got together and addressed goals, changes, update – will email to the group.
- Remain engaged as subgroup with BLM.
- Update from DMs on how grazing group can move forward.
- NDAA – How will the Act be implemented by the BLM?
- DM's to report back to group – ***refer to Vic's email.***

Sage Grouse Sub Group – Will M.

Ron K: Conservation Agreements – are there draft CAs from GSG available for review right now?

- CCAA – BLM and private
- CCA – BLM and FWS

Ralph: No draft, using others as templates – will see what he can find and share with the group.

Will M: Maybe bring in the FWS to come speak at next RAC meeting. There is an element of mistrust between public and federal agencies regarding GSG Conservation Plans.

Ron K: What are the actions going to be to help prevent listing? We need to get the CCAA info out to NV ranchers and property owners.

Will M: Repercussions of not having a CCAA for people: when grazing permit is up for renewal, there will be restrictions.

Ralph: It is better to do the agreements in advance, before the listing, but it is not a fast fix, it takes time to process. He will send out programmatic process from Burns, OR. It's a land health issue, not a species issue.

Mark F: Education is needed. A statewide approach didn't work; we need to look at individuals. Maybe the sub group should send a letter to BLM advising them to reach out to ranchers within their districts.

Deborah: We need to have the RAC get involved in helping implement this.

Ron C: Letter to ranchers about CCAA

Tim D: Got a packet from Gene, too big to read through.

Will M: The FWS cannot spend appropriation funds to list GSG.

Ralph: There needs to be a holistic approach across the entire landscape, federal and private.

Deborah: How are we going to connect the pieces?

Doug: We need to encourage the BLM to look at a private entity to coordinate between federal agencies and the public. Ideas include: UNCE, Soil Conservation District.

Ray H: Someone like Dwayne.

Tim D: Currently does not know what a CCA is or how it will help him. Time is running out. What can we do?

Ray: It takes many groups working collaboratively to make it work, we don't have the money or resources to make it happen.

Deborah: Wondering if the RAC can pull info together to help out ranchers, private property owners.

Vic: How are we going to message the tool? We need to package up these tools and components (i.e. CCAA info) to hand out.

Deborah: Use the GSG subgroup in the interim until the next meeting?

Will M: There are people in OR to come tell us their story? Do we want to have the NE RAC come join us?

David S: The RAC is an advisory tool. Need a separate group to take this on.

Mark F: The Bi-State SG had an executive committee. They assured the FWS that these projects, funding, science were in place and it was going to work. We could be a catalyst to bring the key players in to do something similar.

Will M: How can the RAC help the BLM get this out and not just be an advisor?

Doug H: Could the BLM facilitate a workshop?

Deborah: Workshop details –

- Can everyone on the RAC gather info and share with the group?
 - *Mark F:* gather the following to summarize and present at the sub-group meeting:
 - NRCS and SGI documents
 - Harney Co. video
 - Bi-State Action Plan w/resources
 - *Willie:* Set up sub-group meeting
 - Agenda, Logistics
 - NE RAC notification
 - *Matt:* What is energy doing and want to learn
 - *Ray:* Desatoya project write-up
 - *Doug:* Flow Diagram with Components
 - Interview Duane, Ray, Ralph and Tim
 - *Pat:* Report on Western Regional happenings
 - *Ralph:*
 - Programmatic CCAA components
 - Partners – find people to present
 - Bring Chris Kula
 - Framework of an HCP
 - *Tim:* List of Questions
 - *Ron:*
 - Talk to Ron Keefe

- Public Lands Council input
 - Identify how to get the word out
 - Speaker at the annual Cattlemen's Association
 - *David:*
 - The Nature Conservancy agreement with Barrick details
 - Contact Great Basin Consortium to get input on tools and perspective
 - *Greg:* Find out what has been done on input from WH&B
 - *Vic:* Leading workshop logistics
 - *Debbie:* What is mining doing
- We need to schedule a subgroup meeting to gather all this info from RAC members.
 - Workshop would focus on tools (CCA and CCAA), not GSG.
 - Schedule a call with sub group to develop the workshop material. Tools, partners, details of CCA/CCAAs, funding.
 - Goal of workshop: to clarify and identify the tools. To recommend and educate.
 - Have sub group work through the info to define the topics of the workshop.
 - Identify gaps: multi-species plans, no Tribal rep on RAC.
 - GSG sub group meeting before the workshop. Leave date and location up to sub group.
 - RAC meeting in September, add another day and have the workshop at the Convention Center in Winnemucca. This depends on the outcome of the sub group meeting.
 - Need to know 6 weeks ahead of time for publishing in the Federal Register. July 15th for Workshop date decision – deadline.
 - Reno/Winnemucca teleconference – mid June for sub group meeting.

WHB Sub Group – Greg Hendrix

- Referenced the Aerial Survey Research Presentation, the BLM WHBP Budget Overview from the Advisory Board Meeting, and the BLM WHB Advisory Meeting in April, 2015.
- EAs need to be updated regularly to include PZP use.
- Most WHB advocate groups support PZP use.
- National WHB Advisory Group met in April, went over the budget – 9 million for research, not much for application.
- Coming up with alternate routes to providing solutions to population control.
- Will refine recommendations and send out to RAC.

Action Items:

- Agenda item for RAC meeting will be the WHB sub group recommendations.

- Proposal: Dr. Kirkpatrick presents at next RAC meeting. Mark F: Have him speak at Tri-RAC instead.
- Lisa: RAC positions – five that will expire this year. There will be a press release coming out announcing a call for nominations.
- WD DM reply to inquiries from Grazing sub group.

Public comment period:

Charles Navarro – staffer for Senator Hardy. He will be making an effort to be present at more RAC meetings. Work on increasing partnership with the BLM.

Motion to adjourn.

- Approved.